

Anti-Vandalism Campaign Wins High Marks

Further efforts to curb vandalism and theft at the Jr./Sr. High School were praised by the School Committee this week.

Principal Richard Streeter said that the high school was closed Monday at 2:30 p.m. to dramatize that after school activities are extra and apart from regular school hours. The mandatory dismissal, Streeter said, culminated several acts of vandalism.

The painting of class years

has reportedly appeared twice within a week on the inner walls of the school Courtyard. These incidents apparently italicized acts of vandalism that have plagued the high school.

Destruction of lockers and theft from them — especially physical education and athletic department lockers — was attributed in part to after school access. Streeter noted that these acts were not necessarily coming from

athletes. Supt. John Maloney said that a student's reluctance to properly lock his belongings in a working locker couldn't be overlooked as part of the problem.

Physical education department head Marilyn Watson said that it was hard to tell whether vandalism in the gym class locker rooms or varsity team rooms was happening during the day or after school. She indicated that the boys locker areas were in far worse

condition than were the girls, and that in some areas locks and lockers had been totally destroyed.

Internal precautions are now being taken by completely separating the boys in-school physical education and after-school locker rooms, Watson said. This results in two areas that can be locked

off at 3 p.m., relieving the necessity of supervising them.

The committee approved the appropriation of \$5,280 for locker replacement, which Watson said will also alleviate crowded areas and improve the locker room service. Forty-seven two-section varsity lockers and 41 six-tier lockers will be replaced.

\$700,000 Now In High Yield Account

Close to \$70,000 in trust fund accounts has been transferred recently into new six month certificates, earning about 10 per cent interest.

Town Treasurer Gordon Flint transferred the money after conducting a review of all trust fund accounts held by the town.

The town's recent outside audit recommended that trust funds held by the town be put in high yield interest accounts or certificates instead of regular savings accounts yielding little

better than five per cent interest.

At stake is \$350,970 in trust funds with only \$41,400 invested in long-term, high yielding securities as of June 30, 1978 when the audit was begun.

The remainder of the money, more than \$200,000 will remain in savings accounts getting five-and-three-quarters interest, said Flint.

Many people leave small amounts of money to the town, said Flint, but only amounts \$10,000 or larger can be invested in certificates.

Most of the remaining accounts are in increments of \$600 to \$1,000 and are not large enough to place in any high yielding accounts, Flint noted.

The town has 14 checking accounts and intends on keeping all of them for bidding purposes, said Flint.

The audit recommended that checking accounts be consolidated into four but Flint disagreed, noting that except for the accounts payable and receivable, most contain only token amounts from \$600 to \$1,000.

"Whenever the town is seeking a bond or needs to borrow in anticipation of revenue we like to have 14 bids," said Flint. "Many banks won't bid unless a town has an account with them."

School Budget

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provide new varsity and physical education lockers was approved for \$5,280; \$6,000 was appropriated for the employment of a reading aide in the English department; and a salaried position at \$14,000 for a Health Education teacher to be shared between the Deer Hill and Jr./Sr. High Schools, was approved by the committee.

An alternative which was voted down but which the Committee felt holds promise for the

future, is the hiring of a federal and state grantmanship writer for \$16,000. Maloney felt that this position should be full-time and devoted to the school system; the board agreed in part, but wanted to examine the possibility of employing a person who would share similar responsibilities with town offices.

Real Estate Taxes In The Mail

Real estate property tax bills for the second half of fiscal 1979 were mailed this week to Cohasset property owners.

Taxes are due at the Treasurer-Collector's office by May 1. This is the earliest tax bills have been sent out, said Treasurer Gordon Flint.

Residents are urged to pay the bills as soon as possible to generate working cash so the treasurer won't have to borrow money in anticipation of receiving taxes. Flint has only had to borrow money once during the last four years.

Persons having tax money in an escrow account should forward both copies of the tax bill to their bank, said Flint.

Murray

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to thank my workers, supporters and the voters of Cohasset for their confidence in me."

Rep. Murray also thanked her colleagues on the Board of Selectmen — Arthur L. Clark and Henry W. Ainslie — other town officials, all department heads, town employees and committee members for all their assistance to her and

her people in the town.

"Since the 200 per cent re-evaluation of the town in 1971, the tax rate in Cohasset has increased only \$14.10 — or an average increase of \$1.88 a year," noted Rep. Murray. "All officials of Cohasset have worked diligently to keep the budget increases as minimal as possible."



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